



*Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

April 17, 2007

**AMBASSADOR MOURNS LOSS OF LIFE AT VIRGINIA TECH**

The U.S. Ambassador echoed President Bush's sentiments in the face of today's tragedy at Virginia Tech and ordered that U.S. flag at the Embassy in Wellington be lowered to half-mast.

"Our nation is shocked and saddened by the news of the shootings. An event like this is a nightmare scenario for any parent. My thoughts are with all the families affected by today's events."

The Ambassador noted that news of this event had caused alarm and concern beyond the United States.

"There are many international exchange students at Virginia Tech and I'm aware of the well-established links between Virginia Tech and several New Zealand academic institutions."

The Embassy does not have any details regarding any individual New Zealanders who may be studying or teaching at Virginia Tech.